

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting
August 8, 2019 6:30PM

All members were present.

The meeting was opened with Matt Sporleder leading the pledge.

Nicci Lucas, HR Director, spoke on the HVAC unit for the government building. She read an email from Atina Rozhon, County Extension Director, on the numerous extreme heating and cooling issues her office has experienced with the current system. There was some discussion on what needed to be done to fix the current issues. Matt Sporleder mentioned that when the annex building went solar the HVAC unit was to be done as well. Matt's recommendation to Nicci was to follow up with Greg Wilds, Maintenance Director.

Don Biehle represented Farm Bureau. He gave a brief background of the company stating they currently have 3,038 members in Jennings County with 872 of those being farmers. He read a statement from Farm Bureau, "Jennings County Farm Bureau Supports: The total repeal of the Jennings County jail tax before October 31, 2019, if the Jennings County Commissioners do not approve the construction of the new jail by the same date." The recommendation was approved at the August 1 Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting. Tom Clarkson also spoke on the tax and asked if it was specifically for construction of a new jail. Matt Sporleder informed him it could be used for the current jail.

Next, Peggy Roe with the Health Department asked the Commissioners for their blessing to hire for another position. This position has been approved by the state and is paid for through a grant so it will not cost the county. Bob Willhite made a motion to give their support in hiring. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Brad Monday with the Vernon Township Volunteer Fire Department came before the Commissioners requesting that Vernon Rescue Team be named "Authority over Jurisdiction". This discussion was tabled from the July 11 meeting. Brad stated that back in 2016 the department comprised a team of volunteers to go to specialized training to respond to rescue incidents. The

team currently has 21 members holding certifications in rope rescue, swift water, vehicle/machinery extrication, and wilderness search. The reasoning behind this request is the VTVFD has already established a team and invested \$60,000 in training and equipment. Brad stated that the team is open to anyone in the county as long as they are willing to take the training. Since the inception of the team, they have responded to over 60 rescues. Chris Doran, acting County Attorney, offered to look into the request to gather more information. After much discussion, Bob Willhite made a motion to allow two weeks to gather the information. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

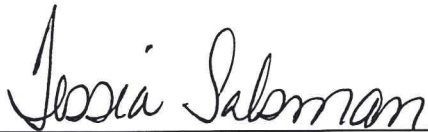
Nicci Lucas came before the Commissioners again with several job openings. Animal Control has one full time and one part time position available. The Highway Department has a part time position available. The Recorder's office has a part time deputy position available. Each department has requested permission to fill the positions. Bob Willhite made a motion to allow each department to hire for the needed positions. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote. Nicci then spoke on the need to hire four dispatchers at 911. A potential employee put an offer on the table to work part time to help out. Dispatch has no part time funds so the money would need to come out of full time lines. Bob Willhite made a motion to allow funds for the salaries to come out of the full time line as long as it is legal to do so. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote. Chris Doran, acting county attorney, has offered to look into it.

Auditor Salsman presented the Commissioners with several different donation requests for 2020 budget. Thrive Alliance has requested \$12,000. Bob Willhite made a motion to budget \$15,000 for a donation to split 50/50 between Thrive Alliance and the Senior Center contingent upon Council funding. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote. Wayside Inn has requested \$5,000 for 2020. Bob Willhite made a motion to budget \$5,000 for Wayside Inn contingent upon Council funding. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

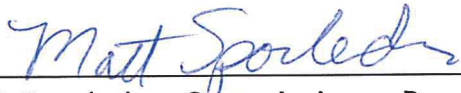
Bob Willhite made a motion to approve prior minutes and to sign payroll and claims with the exception of the Layman Fabrications (invoice #LF6117) claim turned in by the jail. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

A representative from MUTC spoke on the Cyber Academy graduation. There were 30 total students with 19 being finished that day. The program is doing very well. The MUTC open house is October 12 with a Run through the Rubble 5K. It is already sold out with 200 people. The event is open to the public.

Bob Willhite made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Lane seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.



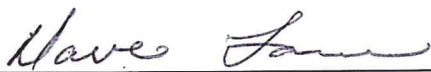
Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Matt Sporleder, Commissioner President



Robert Willhite, Commissioner Vice-President



Dave Lane, Commissioner